



ForensicNurses.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Forensic Nurses Week – Nov 5–9, 2018

Forensic Nurses Needed: EVERY Hospital, EVERY Community, EVERY Day

(November 5, 2018 - Elkridge, MD) – November 5 ushers in Forensic Nurses Week to recognize forensic nurses who provide specialized care for men, women, and children affected by violence and abuse. The International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) and its 4,300 members invite all communities to celebrate nurses who provide the essential component of healthcare’s response to violence and trauma.

“No community is immune. Violence and trauma occur every day, everywhere, worldwide,” states IAFN Board President Susan Chasson, JD, MSN, SANE-A. Yet fewer than 20% of US hospitals have a forensic nurse on staff.¹ Sexual assault continues to dominate the media, presenting a pivotal opportunity for health care to prioritize the needs of patients affected by violence. “By hiring and training forensic nurses,” Chasson notes, “a medical facility ensures that those in their community who are affected by violence and abuse receive the specialized care they need and deserve.”

First recognized as a nursing specialty in 1995, forensic nursing is the newest, fastest growing nursing specialty in the world, igniting interest in both practicing and prospective nurses. While sexual assault nurse examiners (SANEs) are perhaps the most recognized within the specialty, forensic nurses provide necessary services in a variety of fields where healthcare and legal systems intersect, including domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, elder mistreatment, human trafficking, death investigation, corrections, and man-made and natural disasters. Communities that promote forensic nursing arm themselves with the vital resources to combat the short- and long term-health consequences of violence and abuse, launch effective prevention efforts, and ensure the administration of justice.

To learn more about forensic nursing and Forensic Nurses Week, visit www.forensicnurses.org/FNweek

¹ Of the 5,273 acute care hospitals in the United States with emergency departments in 2015, only about 17% had Sexual Assault Forensic/Nurse Examiner (SANE/SAFE) Programs. Emergency Medicine Network. (2017). National Emergency Department Inventory-USA. Retrieved from http://www.emnet-usa.org/medi/medi_usa.htm; International Association of Forensic Nurses. (2017). SANE Program Listing [Data file].

THE ASSOCIATION AT A GLANCE

With more than 4,300 members from 25 countries, the International Association of Forensic Nurses is the catalyst for universal access to forensic nursing care for patients impacted by violence and trauma. We are sought out by the public, policymakers, media, governments and healthcare systems for our expertise, and regulatory bodies look to the Association for guidance on setting standards of care for forensic nursing services in a variety of settings. The Association defines and advances the global research agenda to enhance nursing's evidence-based response to the needs of forensic populations; works to develop, promote, and disseminate information internationally about forensic nursing science; and serves as a global network for forensic nurses to exchange ideas, serve as mentors, and enhance their practice. The Association offers a variety of educational opportunities as well as board certification for sexual assault nurse examiners who care for Adult/Adolescent (SANE-A®) and Pediatric/Adolescent (SANE-P®) patients. For more information, visit www.forensicnurses.org

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